

Nicaragua alumni

Alumni Spotlight

My U.S. Experience

By Franklin Tellez, Summer Institute 2009 Alumnus

Aloha (which means love, affection, hello, good bye) was the first Hawaiian expression I heard when I arrived in Honolulu, the capital of Hawaii. I was part of 26 Language Educators sponsored by the U.S. Department of State to participate in the 2009 Summer Institute at Hawaii Pacific University (HPU). This training focused on English Language Teaching (ELT) Materials Development. I spent one month sharing and learning with teachers from Burma, Malaysia, the Philippines, Thailand, Costa Rica, Guatemala, Mexico and the Russian Federation.

We reviewed the materials developed by the HPU faculty about culture and some classic American folk songs. It was interesting to listen to the different points of view and the feedback coming

from people of various countries and religious backgrounds. The book "Celebrate" is part of this material. It discusses 10 holidays and celebrations of the U.S. I learned more about American History and Culture, and the most important part of this training was the way I compared, and found out about so many similarities we have in common with

this country and its people. I learned to localize what I learned from this material with my country Nicaragua. Americans celebrate Thanksgiving in November with the traditional turkey. We celebrate Christmas in December with a delicious "Gallina Rellena" (stuffed chicken). It is not the same dish, but we do have something in common, we share this special moment with family and friends.

"As educators we have to teach our learners to love and feel proud of their countries, culture, customs and traditions"



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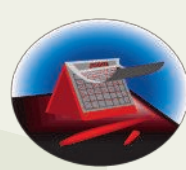
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Sharing ideas and experiences about culture and teaching with the rest of the participants from Asia, Russia and some Latin American countries made me realize that we are different in physical appearance, but as educators we have the same objectives. We teach our students to learn from others, to face a world with so many problems and at the same time, teach them to find solutions - not the best ones- but to find the way to make things better for everybody. We also teach them to see the differences among people in terms of culture and traditions. Let's teach them to see the similarities and what we may learn from others. As educators we have to teach our learners to love and feel proud of their countries, culture, customs and traditions.

Every single day at HPU was another day to enrich my teaching experience, learning about how to implement these materials in our Nicaraguan classrooms.

I learned about culture in and out of the university. Hawaii is a paradise be-

cause of their people. They protect their surroundings. They love what they do and work to keep their state safe and clean. They love their mauna (mountains) and moana (ocean). Keikis (children) learn to be part of nature. I will never forget the sound of the ukulele (four-string musical instrument shaped like a small guitar), and the delicious smell of my lei (garland of flowers worn around the neck or head) made of yellow hibiscus (flor de avispa in Nicaragua).

Since I came back from Hawaii, I have trained around 180 English teachers from public, and private schools, Universities and our staff at the Binational Center. I have videotaped, and I have taken pictures of these trainings in the last 7 months. I have sent the teachers' feedback to Dr. Sandra McKay, Visiting Professor of Applied linguistics and Project Manager of the ELT grant and to the faculty at HPU and the State Department officials in charge of this program.

I would like to Mahalo (Thank) the



Franklin Tellez training the Access Program Teachers on how to use the book and the materials "Celebrate" Holidays in the U.S.A.

U.S. Department of State, HPU faculty, American Embassy, and the Binational Center in Nicaragua for this wonderful teaching experience. I have shared what I learned with our teachers in my country, and it is my objective to train more teachers about the implementation of this new material.

Mahalo

What's going on...

Recent Alumni News

* **Youth Ambassadors 2010 Come Back with Their Batteries Charged! (March 2010).**

The group of 7 young Nicaraguans recently met to share their experiences and talk about future projects. They were impressed with U.S. culture and values. One of them, Rolando Chavarria, talked about the culture of clean environment that U.S. people practice and he plans to put this into action with an environmental project to address the problem of people littering. All of them are competing for an award of US\$1000.00 to put their community plan in action.

* **Celebration of Women's History Month: A Former Fulbrighter Speaks Out (March 2010).**

Dr. Sylvia Torres, presently Gender Director for the Millennium Challenge Corporation Leon office, and a former Fulbrighter, gave a presentation on the role of Nicaraguan women during the past 20 years, and the challenges yet to be met in this society. The presentation was coordinated with the law school of UNAN-Leon, drawing a standing-room-only crowd of law students. The information was concise and thought-provoking while offering opportunities for both students and the Rector to address issues of concern to the university community.



Students cleaning and picking up the trash in school premises as part of their school activities.

Just in time for Earth Day!

* **Juan Carlos Altamirano, a teacher from Nueva Guinea, won first place in the Teaching Excellence and Achievement (TEA) program photo contest (March 2010)**

"We met a lot of people, and best of all, so many friends we made. Saying good-bye was hard, and to tell you the truth no one was tearless. I'm thankful for this experience, it has been one of the best so far"-Juan Carlos Altamirano.

April, celebrating Earth Day!

Tips for Going Green...

Many common household appliances consume energy even when they are not in use.

You might be paying for electricity you don't really know you're using. The electronics boom of recent decades has led to the invention of a variety of household appliances and devices that guzzle down energy just when they are plugged in, even though they are not being actively used. In fact, the U.S. Environmental Protection Agency reports that these devices cost Americans almost \$10 billion a year in electricity, and they account for almost 11 percent of all U.S. energy use.

They've been called "energy vampires" because of the way they suck down energy for no productive use but only to sustain their own existence. You've invited them into your homes, seduced by the convenience, entertainment, and fun these gadgets introduce to their lives.

For example, a television always uses a little power so it can always receive the "on" signal from the remote control. Charging accessories also use power when not plugged into their devices but remain plugged into an outlet.

These are some of the product features that will continually consume electricity when the device is not in active use:

- * Remote control
- * External power supply

- * Digital display, LED status light, or digital clock

- * Battery charger

- * Soft-touch keypad

You can check your home for energy vampires by using a power meter. Turn everything off as if you were leaving home for the day. Then go look at your electric meter. If it is still spinning, you have vampires in the house.

Here's how to reduce power consumption from these devices:

- * Unplug products that are rarely used. In many American homes, a good example is a television and DVD player in a rarely used guest room.

- * Use a power strip with a switch that controls clusters of products. The most likely targets are computer clusters (computer, printer, scanner, speakers, wireless transmitter, etc.).

- * Use a power strip with a switch that controls clusters of products. The most likely targets are computers clusters (computer, printer, scanner, speakers, wireless transmitter, etc.), entertainment clusters (television, DVD player, speakers, game consoles, etc.), and audio clusters (receiver, amplifier, CD players, etc.).

Adapted from U.S. Department of Energy and Environmental Protection Agency Web sites.

EFFICI-FACT

Using recycled material almost always consumes less energy than using new materials. Recycling a pound of steel saves enough energy to light a 60-watt light bulb for 26 hours. Recycling a ton of glass saves the equivalent of nine gallons of fuel oil.

Source: *The National Energy Education Development Project*

The U.S. Embassy in Managua invites you to participate in the Earth Day event:



Clean Up Nejapa!

Join us on Sunday, April 25 at 8:00 a.m. Meeting point: La Liga (km. 8.5 Carretera Sur)

Dress comfortably: tennis shoes, jeans, t-shirt, cap and 1 lt. of water). Bring a pair of gloves, 2 garbage bags and your energy to save the natural resources of Nicaragua.



ON-LINE RESOURCES

* **Earth Day Network**
(<http://www.earthday.net>)

The Earth Day Network, founded by the organizers of the first Earth Day, promotes environmental citizenship and year-round action worldwide.

* **America.gov**

To learn more about going green tendencies and protecting the environment visit America.gov where you will find an array of articles, initiatives and a space to share your thoughts.



Photo Gallery



William Tapia, Kathyuska Blanco and Rubi Amador. College Horizons Alumni.



Arelly Leiva, SUSI Alumna, in Niagara falls during her exchange experience.



Karla Perez, Youth Ambassador Alumna, at a high school in Wisconsin.

Calendar of Activities

April-May 2010

SUN	MON	TUE	WED	THU	FRI	SAT
18	19	20	21	22	23	24
Waste Management Speaker, April 18-24, 2010						
25	26	27	28	29	30	
Nejapa Clean up	America.gov WEBCHAT Presidential Summit on Entrepreneurship, April 26-27-Live!		Security Seminar for Sites and Museums, April 26-30, 2010			

We want to hear from you!

This is **YOUR** newsletter, we welcome suggestions and questions. Write to our office to include your articles, your efforts, your photos...

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 Exchange Opportunities



Happening NOW!

⇒ **Fulbright Science and Technology**
 Deadline: May 01, 2010

⇒ **Fulbright Hubert H. Humphrey**
 Deadline: May 28, 2010

Information and application available on line.

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http://spanish.nicaragua.usembassy.gov/programa_becas.html

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